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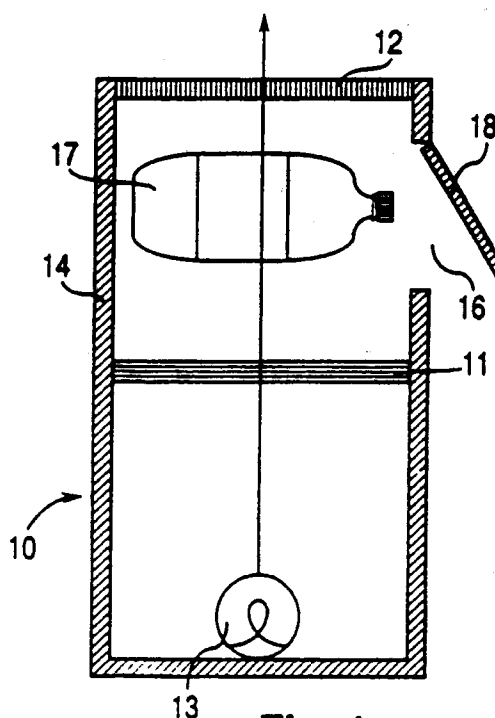
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**Patentanwälte**  
**Beselerstrasse 4**  
**W-2000 Hamburg 52(DE)**(54) **Method for sorting plastic articles.**

(57) A method of sorting a mixed group of plastic articles, such as PET and PVC containers, involves individually subjecting each article to a beam of electromagnetic radiation, and detecting a change in the intensity of the beam. The measured intensity varies in a manner indicative of the crystallinity of the plastic from which the article is made, and hence identifies the type of plastic the article is made of. Each article is then sent to one of a plurality of destinations, such as recycling collection bins, according to the type of plastic. The method is particularly useful in separating PET and PVC used in containers, since these plastics are very difficult to sort by conventional methods.

**Fig. 1****EP 0 441 012 A3**



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

**EP 90 25 0343**

### DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
P,X	EP-A-0 361 430 (ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS CORPORATION) * the whole document * - - -	1-10,13, 18	B 29 B 17/02 B 07 C 5/342
D,X	EP-A-0 291 959 (ISTITUTO GUIDO DONEGANI S.P.A.) * the whole document * - - -	14-17	
A	DE-A-3 520 486 (JOSEF THOR) * the whole document * - - -	1-10, 18-20	
A	US-A-3 747 755 (STEPHEN D. SENTURIA ET AL.) * column 1, line 12 - column 2, line 29 * * column 4, line 15 - line 50 * * column 6, line 60 - line 64 * * claims 1-16; figures 1,3 * - - - - -	1-4,7, 10-13	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 29 B B 07 C G 01 N
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		24 February 92	MOLTO PINOL F.J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	
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P : intermediate document		& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
T : theory or principle underlying the invention			